

WASHINGTON POST
AND TIMES HERALD

APR 1 1964

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Kermit Roosevelt Heads Irish Airline Venture

SHANNON, Ireland, March 31 (UPI)—An American-financed million-dollar airline headed by Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, will be launched here in May, it was announced today.

The independent airline, named Shannon Air Limited, has an estimated capital of \$1 million and is backed by American financiers.

Roosevelt, 48, of 3940 Fordham rd. nw. in Washington, is governing director of the airline which will concentrate on cargo and charter flights from Shannon to the United States and the European Continent.

It will operate a fleet of Douglas DC-4 and DC-6 aircraft and will employ 50 persons in maintenance and clerical departments.

Roosevelt, in a statement released here, said "we be-

lieve that this new independent airline project will give added impetus to Ireland's current economic expansion."

The company will not compete with the air services provided by Aer Lingus, Ireland's international passenger airline.

Roosevelt, a Harvard graduate, was Middle Eastern and Communist Affairs Secretary of State from 1947 to 1957. He was named vice president of Gulf Oil Corp. in 1960 after directing Gulf Oil's government relations department for two years.